JNUSU in solidarity with FTII students' protests against appointment of Gajendra Chauhan as Chairman!

JNUSU congratulates the students of FTII for resisting the appointment of Gajendra Singh as Chairman of FTII. JNUSU extends support and solidarity with FTII students, as they boycott classes and all academic activity in FTII to protest the saffrronisation of FTII by the Modi government.

Over the past year, we have been seeing continuous attempts by the Modi government to meddle academic institutions. RSS ideologues and BJP supporters are being appointed as heads of important academic bodies, curricula and functioning of schools, colleges and universities are being reworked and rewritten to suit a communal-fascist narrative. A person who believes that the caste system and institutionalised hierarchies in Indian society had 'merits' has been appointed as the head of the ICHR; Dinanath Batra's communal and jingoist rants are becoming part of compulsory reading in schools; all dissenting voices are being threatened and banned!

This latest assault on FTII's long traditions of upholding progressive cinema and television has to be seen as a continuation of ongoing attacks on academic institutions. Clearly, the recent appointments of Gajendra Chauhan, Anagha Ghaisas and Shailesh Gupta have been made *solely* on the basis of their loyalty to the RSS/BJP and for their ability to campaign for, and make propagandist films promoting communal-fascism. **The need of the hour is to forge united struggles and united resistance to all the ongoing assaults on our democratic spaces.**At stake is the integrity of the FTII, its progressive traditions, and need to defend a democratic ethos. In this struggle, JNUSU stands in complete solidarity.

JNUSU strongly supports FTII students' demands:

1. Removal of Gajendra Singh as Chairperson
2. Instituting a new mechanism to appoint the Chairman, wherein 51% of the Governing Council will be FTII alumni and the Governing Council in turn will elect the Chairman.

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